



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

No. 24

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2003, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, who knows our needs before we ask You for Your help, and has plans for us and our Nation ready to reveal to leaders who humble themselves and seek Your guidance, we praise You for the privilege of being alive and the delight of serving You.

Give us a positive attitude for the challenges and problems of this day. Help us utilize Your divinely inspired gift of imagination to energize our vision of Your very best for the individuals, concerns, and complicated issues we must creatively confront today. Empower us to prayerfully picture Your solutions and direction and speak with the tone of Your articulated inspiration in our souls. Help us not to go it alone today on our own limited resources but draw on the inspiration of the vivid images You play on the screen of our inner eye of vision.

Today we pray for all in the Senate family who are ill or recovering from surgery. Especially we pray for Senators ROBERT GRAHAM and MITCH MCCONNELL, two distinguished Senators who are recovering from heart surgeries and procedures. Infuse Your healing power into their bodies and give them strength and renewed resiliency. We thank You for these two great leaders.

We expect great things from You today, dear God, and we will attempt

great things for You throughout this new week. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable NORM COLEMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS.)

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COLEMAN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Miguel Estrada to be a circuit judge for the DC Circuit.

On Thursday we attempted to reach a consent agreement which would have allowed for a vote on that nomination during today's session. Unfortunately, that consent was not granted last Thursday. However, it is still my hope to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to set a time certain for a vote on the confirmation of this important nomination. I know there are additional Members who want to speak on the nomination, and I hope they do so today, that they take advantage of the opportunity, beginning in a few minutes, over the course of today.

I do want to express our willingness to go as long as necessary tonight to allow for that open discussion, that open debate, so colleagues do have the opportunity to express their wishes.

I do want to make sure my colleagues understand it is our intent to finish this nomination and vote on this nomination as early as possible this week. I would love to have that opportunity to do so either later tonight or tomorrow—again recognizing that it is important people have the opportunity to speak. Again, we are perfectly happy to stay here as long as necessary tonight.

In addition, three district court judges were reported by the Judiciary Committee on Thursday. We are working towards an agreement for a vote on one of those nominations this evening.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2065